

DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR MLK JR COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
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A grand opening celebration was held for the new Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital on Friday, August 7, 2015. The new hospital is a public-private partnership, offering a new, independent and private-run board with a new chief executive and new staff.

It took \$284 million to build the hospital which will serve nearly 1.35 million residents from Compton, Inglewood, Watts, Willowbrook, Lynwood and surrounding communities.



Building on the theme of “It’s a New Day at MLK,” Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors reminded attendees at the ceremony of his promise years ago to open the hospital again during his tenure. “A new day, what does it mean? Delivering on a promise,” he said. Many credited Supervisor Ridley-Thomas for the successful opening of the hospital after years of not having access to healthcare for underserved residents in the area. The Supervisor was heavily praised for his dedication and tenacity in getting the hospital built.



Located on the MLK Medical Campus, the new 131-bed hospital provides general acute care, emergency services, primary care, and labor and delivery services. The hospital is part of the preventative care services available on the MLK Medical Campus, including the Center for Public Health, the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) Urgent Care Center and Outpatient Center. The campus has future plans to house a recuperative care center, child medical hub, autism center and community garden.

“We arrive at the finish line of one vision, only to start at the beginning of another,” stated the hospital’s CEO, Elaine Batchlor, MD, MPH. “Thank you for believing this community deserves this investment... It hasn’t been easy but it’s been worthwhile.”



The anticipated dedication ceremony was hosted by ABC 7 news anchor Marc Brown who served as the master of ceremonies. During the ribbon cutting, members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Supervisor Hilda Solis and Supervisor Don Knabe) were joined by other dignitaries and community leaders, including Congresswoman Janice Hahn, State Senator Isadore Hall, California Attorney General Kamala Harris, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Dr. Elaine Batchlor (CEO, MLK Community Hospital), Los Angeles County Department of Health Services Director Mitchell Katz, MD, and Sweet Alice Harris (Founder, Parents of Watts).



“God has answered our prayers,” said Sweet Alice Harris to the crowd at the ceremony. “We were here when there was nothing. We are here and now we have something. Today is a new day!”